

Serial No. 09/494,690

99-879US1

Kindly cancel the originally submitted Figures 3-6, 8 and 9 and insert the attached marked-up drawings, Figs. 3-6, 8 and 9.

In the Specification:

Kindly make the following changes to the specification. A marked up copy of the relevant specification sections is attached.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 7 to read as follows:

a' Figure 3 depicts a supplier process perspective template 50 and a stencil 10. The supplier process perspective template generally depicted at 50, has a workspace pre-populated with icons forming a supply chain map 70. The icons are selected to pre-populate the template based on the area of interest of the user. For example, if the user is interested in process control, the critical supply chain icon which represents factors that impact cost, quality, and cycle time regarding process control, pre-populate the template. In the preferred embodiment, the supply chain map 70 is for a finished part 66.

[Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 8 to read as follows:]

The finished part 66 is downstream in the supply chain map 70. Raw materials, suppliers, processes, and component that are inclusive in producing a finished part are provided upstream relative from the finished part. Raw materials, suppliers, processes, and components flow in the supply chain from left to right.

[Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 8 to read as follows:]

With a continued reference to Figure 3, the supply chain map 70 shows three tiers of suppliers tier three suppliers 56, tier two suppliers 54 and tier one suppliers 52. Downstream from each of the supplies are processes 58. Inspection measurements 60 are located throughout the supply chain map 70.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 8 to read as follows:

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Each of the suppliers 56(b) is associated with a process 58(b) located downstream. Each of the processes 58(b) connects to a second tier supplier 54(e). The components that flow from each of the third tier suppliers 58(b) to second tier supplier 54(e) create a bottleneck 62. The bottleneck 62 indicates potential problems in the supply chain.

[Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 9 to read as follows:]

Each of the second tier suppliers 54(c), 54(d), and 54(e) are associated with processes 58(c), 58(d), and 58(e), respectively. A first tier supplier is associated with each of the processes 58(c), 58(d), and 58(e). A process 58(f) is associated with first tier supplier 52. An inspection measurement 60 is associated with process 58(f). A finished part 66 is associated with inspection measurement 60. The finished part then moves in the supply chain map to dealer 67 and then to customers 68.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 10 to read as follows:

a³

Figure 9 illustrates a sequential computer screen display flow chart depicting the operational sequence for the preferred embodiment. Computer screen display 92 identifies the part 104 in the supply chain map. Computer screen display 94 identifies the components 106 in the assembly. For each component, the supplier, supplier location and part number is identified by textual information placed within the icons. Computer screen print 96 indicates the processes 108 that each part must go through before it reaches the next supplier in the supply chain map. Computer screen display 98 indicates transportation 110, border crossings 112. Computer screen display 100 identifies inspection measurements 114. Computer screen display 102 identifies part storage 116, lead time 118 and bottlenecks 119. Information template 20 is accessed through a hyperlink of individual icons 12.

In the Claims:

Kindly add the following new claim:

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Sub B3

20 (New). A system for analyzing a supply chain, the supply chain having multiple tiers of suppliers geographically removed from one another or from end users of products